

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for expanding customer bases for data services providers, comprising
2 the steps of:
3 connecting a first end-user of a first data services provider to a high-speed network
4 dedicated to broadband data transport services, the high-speed network being at least one of a
5 hybrid fiber optic coaxial network and an all-fiber optic network;
6 connecting a second end-user of a second data services provider to the high-speed
7 network;
8 connecting the first end-user to a headend of the first data services provider through a
9 common data center of the high-speed network; and
10 connecting the second end-user to a headend of the second data services provider
11 through the common data center of the high-speed network, wherein
12 the high-speed network is owned by a third party, not the first data services provider
13 and not the second data services provider.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first end-user is geographically located
2 outside of a peripheral reach of a communications plant operated by the first data services
3 provider, the communications plant being at least one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network
4 and an all-fiber optic network.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the headend of the first data services provider is a
2 headend for at least one of CATV signals and data.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein:

2 the communications plant operated by the first data services provider carry CATV
3 signals; and
4 the peripheral reach of the communications plant is restricted by a governmental
5 regulatory authority.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the communications plant carries CATV signals
2 to other end-users, but not the first end-user.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 storing a first end-user entry in a database of the common data center corresponding
3 to the first end-user;
4 associating the first end-user entry with the first data services provider in the
5 database;
6 storing a second end-user entry in the database of the common data center
7 corresponding to the second end-user; and
8 associating the second end-user entry with the second data services provider in the
9 database.

1 7. A method for supplementing subscribership for data services of a service provider
2 that provides at least one of CATV services and data services in first geographic area,
3 comprising the steps of:
4 obtaining a contract from the service provider to provide data services for an end-user,
5 the end-user located outside of the first geographic area;
6 provisioning the end-user for data services;

7 storing an end-user entry in a database corresponding to the end-user;
8 associating the end-user entry with the service provider in the database; and
9 connecting the end-user to a communication line operated by the service provider via
10 a high speed data network.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the communications line operated by the service
2 provider is connected to a headend through which at least one of CATV signals and data
3 signals are transmitted.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein a peripheral reach of the communications line
2 which carries the CATV signals is restricted by a governmental regulatory authority.

1 10. A method for expanding customer bases for data services providers, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 executing a subscription contract between a third party and a first data service

4 provider to connect a first end-user to a high-speed network dedicated to broadband data
5 transport services operated by the third party;

6 executing another subscription contract between the third party and a second data
7 service provider to connect a second end-user to the high-speed network;

8 connecting the first end-user to a headend of the first data service provider through a
9 common data center of the high-speed network; and

10 connecting the second end-user to a headend of the second data service provider
11 through the common data center of the high-speed network.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein at least one of the first data service provider
and the second data service provider also provide cable television signals to communication
lines connected to their respective headends.

12. A method for reusing computer resources to provide operations support services
to a plurality of Internet service providers with different customer bases, comprising the steps
of:

populating a digital repository with entries including information about end-users of a
first Internet service provider;

populating the digital repository with entries including information about end-users of
a second Internet service provider, the second Internet service provider being different from
the first Internet service provider;

presenting a graphical user interface to the first Internet service provider when
seeking to at least one of access, create, and update the information about end-users of the
first Internet service provider; and

presenting the graphical user interface to the second Internet service provider when
seeking to at least one of access, create, and update the information about end-users of the
second Internet service provider.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of:

providing from the first Internet service provider cable television service to other end-
users, but not to the end-users of the first Internet service provider.

1 14. A method for promoting competition between cable providers offering broadband
2 data services, comprising steps of:

3 connecting an end-user to a high-speed data network dedicated to broadband data
4 transport services;

5 connecting a headend of a first broadband data services provider to the high-speed
6 data network so as to create a physical communication link between the end user and the
7 headend of the first broadband data services provider;

8 connecting a headend of a second broadband data service provider to the high speed
9 data network so as to create another physical communication link between the end user and
10 the headend of the second broadband data services provider; and

11 determining if the end-user selects to subscribe to data services offered by one of the
12 first broadband data services provider and the data services offered by the second broadband
13 data services provider;

14 enabling the physical communication link between the end-user and the first
15 broadband data services provider if in the determining step it is determined that the end-user
16 selects the data services of the first broadband data services provider; and

17 enabling the physical communication link between the end-user and the second
18 broadband data services provider if in the determining step it is determined that the end-user
19 selects the data services of the second broadband data services provider.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the high-speed data network does not carry
2 cable television signals.

1 16. A system for expanding customer bases for broadband data services providers,
2 comprising:
3 means for connecting a first end-user of a first data services provider to a high-speed
4 network dedicated to broadband data transport services, the high-speed network being at least
5 one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network and an all-fiber optic network;
6 means for connecting a second end-user of a second data services provider to the
7 high-speed network;
8 means for connecting the first end-user to a headend of the first data services provider
9 through a common data center of the high-speed network; and
10 means for connecting the second end-user to a headend of the second data services
11 provider through the common data center of the high-speed network, wherein
12 the high-speed network is owned by a third party, not the first data services provider
13 and not the second data services provider.

1 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the first end-user is geographically located
2 outside of a peripheral reach of a communications plant operated by the first data services
3 provider, the communications plant being at least one of a hybrid fiber optic coaxial network
4 and an all-fiber optic network.

1 18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the headend of the first data services provider is
2 a headend for at least one of CATV signals and data signals.

1 19. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for storing a first end-user entry in a database of the common data center
corresponding to the first end-user;
means for associating the first end-user entry with the first data services provider in
the database;
means for storing a second end-user entry in the database of the common data center
corresponding to the second end-user; and
means for associating the second end-user entry with the second data services
provider in the database.

20. A system for supplementing subscribership for data services of a service provider
that provides CATV and data services in first geographic area, comprising:

means for providing data services for an end-user from the service provider, the end-
user located outside of the first geographic area;
means for provisioning the end-user for data services;
means for storing an end-user entry in a database corresponding to the end-user;
means for associating the end-user entry with the service provider in the database; and
means for connecting the end-user to a communication line operated by the service
provider by a high speed data network.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the communications line operated by the
service provider is connected to a headend through which at least one of data signals and
CATV signals are transmitted.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein

2 a peripheral reach of the communications line which carries the CATV signals is
3 restricted by a governmental regulatory authority.

1 23. A system for reusing computer resources to provide operations support services
2 to a plurality of Internet service providers with different customer bases, comprising:

3 means for populating a digital repository with entries regarding information about end
4 users of a first Internet service provider;

5 means for populating the digital repository with entries including information about
6 end-users of a second Internet service provider, the second Internet service provider being
7 different from the first Internet service provider;

8 means for presenting a graphical user interface to the first Internet service provider
9 when seeking to at least one of access, create, and update the information about end-users of
10 the first Internet service provider; and

11 means for presenting the graphical user interface to the second Internet service
12 provider when seeking to at least one of access, create, and update the information about end-
13 users of the second Internet service provider.

1 24. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:

2 means for providing from the first Internet service provider cable television service to
3 other end-users, but not to the end-users of the first Internet service provider.

1 25. A system for promoting competition between cable providers offering broadband
2 data services, comprising:

means for connecting an end-user to a high-speed data network dedicated to broadband data transport services;

means for connecting a headend of a first broadband data services provider to the high-speed data network so as to create a physical communication link between the end-user and the headend of the first broadband data services provider;

means for connecting a headend of a second broadband data service provider to the high-speed data network so as to create another physical communication link between the end-user and the headend of the second broadband data services provider; and

means for determining if the end-user selects to subscribe to data services offered by one of the first broadband data services provider and the data services offered by the second broadband data services provider; and

means for enabling the physical communication link between the end-user and the first broadband data services provider if the means for determining determines that the end-user selects the data services of the first broadband data services provider; and

means for enabling the physical communication link between the end-user and the second broadband data services provider if the means for determining determines that the end-user selects the data services of the second broadband data services provider.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the high-speed data network does not carry cable television signals.